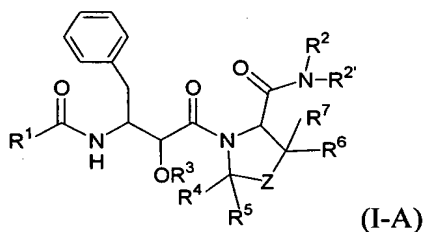


WE CLAIM:

1. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-A), or a prodrug, pharmaceutically active metabolite, or pharmaceutically active salt or solvate thereof,



wherein:

R¹ is a 5- or 6-membered mono-cyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group, wherein said carbocyclic or heterocyclic group is saturated, partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated and is optionally substituted by at least one substituent chosen from C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy, C₆₋₁₀ arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy;

R² is C₂₋₆ alkenyl or C₁₋₆ alkyl optionally substituted with at least one halogen;

R^{2'} is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

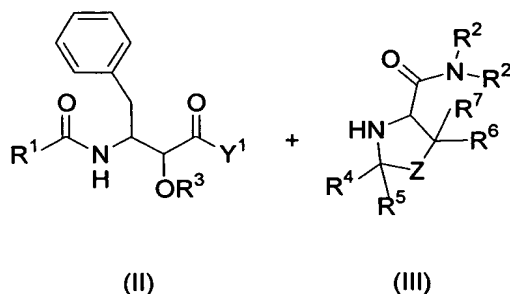
Z is S, O, SO, SO₂, CH₂ or CFH;

R³ is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently chosen from H and C₁-C₆ alkyl;

prepared by:

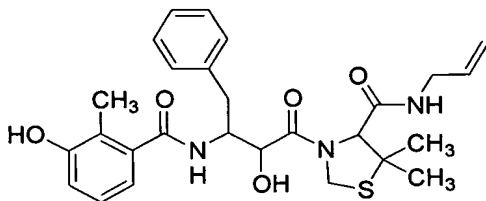
reacting a compound of formula (II), wherein Y¹ is hydroxyl or a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III), or a salt or solvate thereof,



2. A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II), Y¹ is hydroxyl.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):
R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently chosen from C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyloxy, C₆₋₁₀ arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy; and
R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently chosen from H and methyl.
4. A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):
R^{2'} is H; and
Z is S, O, SO, or SO₂.
5. A process according to claim 4, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A) R² is C₂₋₆ alkenyl.
6. A process according to claim 5, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):
Z is S or O; and
R³ is H.
7. A process according to claim 6, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):
Z is S;

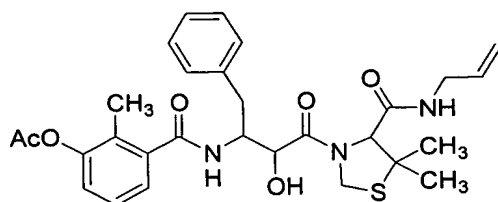
R^4 and R^5 are H; and
 R^6 and R^7 are methyl.

8. A process according to claim 7, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A), R^1 is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent independently chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{6-10} arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy.
9. A process according to claim 8, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):
 R^1 is phenyl substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl and hydroxyl; and
 R^2 is allyl.
10. A process according to claim 9, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A), R^1 is phenyl substituted by methyl and hydroxyl.
11. A process according to claim 10, wherein the compound of formula (I-A) is:

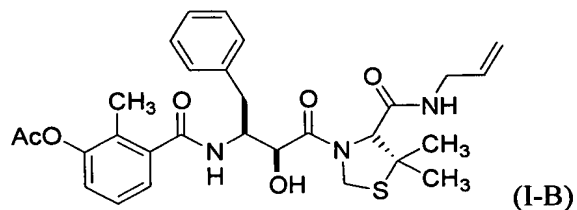


12. A process according to claim 8, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A), R^1 is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent independently chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy.
13. A process according to claim 12, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):
 R^1 is phenyl substituted by methyl and methylcarbonyloxy; and
 R^2 is allyl.
14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the compound of formula (I-A) is:

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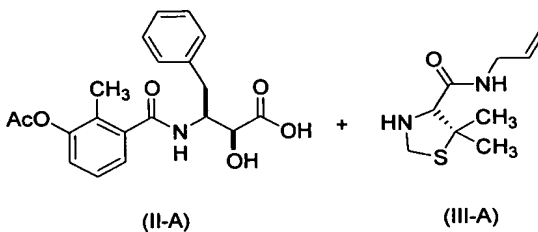


15. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-B),

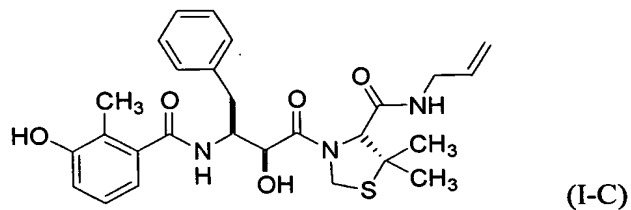


comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,



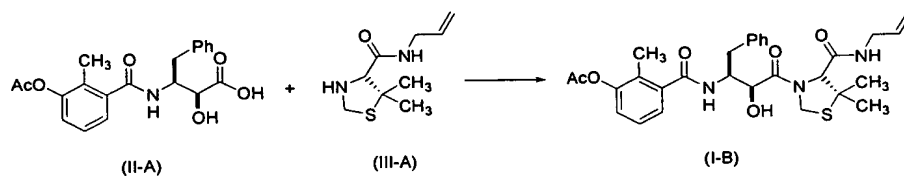
16. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-C),



comprising:

- (i) reacting a compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,

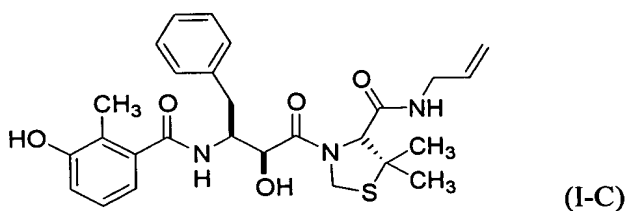
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to afford a compound of formula (I-B); and

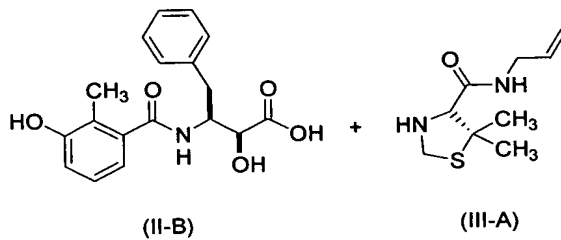
(ii) deprotecting the compound of formula (I-B).

17. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-C),

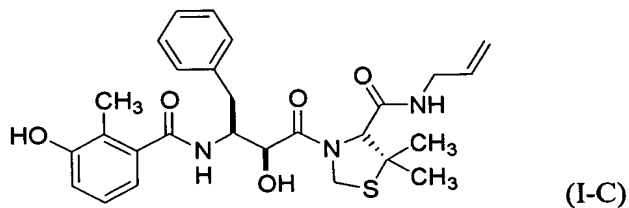


comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II-B) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,

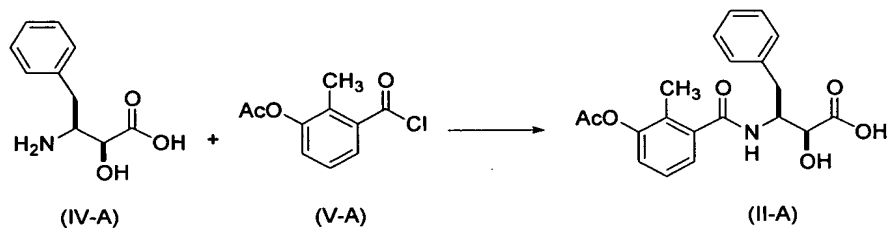


18. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-C),



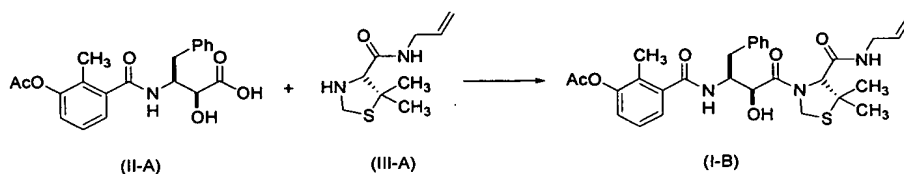
comprising:

(i) reacting a compound of formula (IV-A) with a compound of formula (V-A),



to afford a compound of formula (II-A);

(ii) reacting the compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,



to afford a compound of formula (I-B); and

(iii) deprotecting the compound of formula (I-B).